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Jack Hyman, Student

Alfred S. Konefsky

University at Buffalo School of Law, konefsky@buffalo.edu

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Jack Hyman, Student

ALFRED S. KONEFSKY†

Seven or eight years ago, when Jack was around ninety, he came into my office one Friday morning, announced that he was taking Al Mugel's Future Interests course (which, I think, met on Friday and Saturday at 8 a.m.), and wanted to know if I could recommend anything for him to read about the historical origins or roots of the Rule Against Perpetuities. Apparently Jack felt it was about time for him to master or make his peace with the Rule (better late than never, or that he could not shuffle off this mortal coil without at least trying). But, in characteristic Jack style, he thought the rule was easy enough to figure out, but he was much more interested in understanding why it came to exist, its social context, rather than its actual wording and meaning, or application. I told him about a very good article on the relationship between the origins of the rule and the English gentry. He said he would go get it. I said no, that was okay, I would find it for him in the library, and photocopy it for him. And I did. And first thing Monday morning, into my office walked Jack, ready to discuss the article. I tell this story to provide some insight into Jack's devotion in this law school to the life of the mind—ever seeking, ever learning, always a teacher, but as importantly, always a student.

† University at Buffalo Distinguished Professor, University at Buffalo School of Law, The State University of New York.

Jacob D. Hyman

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